



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Council Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2019

Meeting Location: 300 Building, 300 Sower Boulevard, Room 418, Frankfort KY

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Billie Hardin, Vice Chair Marcus Norton, Lona Brewer, Karen Reagor

Absent Members: Karin Ceralde, Gordon Garner

Staff in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance: Ashley Hoffman, Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Executive Director

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by B. Hardin at 1:15 PM. W. Bullock confirmed that public notice of the Council Meeting was given, as required by Open Meetings law.
2. W. Bullock called roll. Of the six Council Members, four were present, constituting a quorum.
3. Additions to the agenda: B. Hardin requested review of a letter of condolence to the family of former chair Horace Brown. B. Bennett requested discussion of a conference sponsorship opportunity.
4. Action: Motion to February 2019 Council Meeting Minutes: ➡ At 1:18 PM, L. Brewer moved to approve the minutes of the November Special Council Meeting. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.
5. B. Hardin referred Council Members to their mileage forms for requested reimbursement.

B. Council General Updates

1. Moving to the new Building
 - a) B. Bennett notified the Council that KEEC staff will move to the new 500 Building on the site of the old Capital Plaza Tower sometime between July and November. K. Reagor asked what kind of space the agency would have. B. Bennett said that he has not been informed yet.
2. Status of Council Appointments
 - a) B. Bennett has not heard the status of Council appointments. The following people have expressed interest and are filling out applications: Melinda Wilder (retired from Eastern Kentucky University), Russell Allen (Legget & Platt), Amanda Patrick (US Forest Service).

C. Coordination

1. Action: Vision Statement. B. Hardin said that it is important that the Council adopt a vision statement in preparation for the Master Plan development process. Staff drafted a statement based on KEEC founding statutes. B. Bennett discussed the important attributes of a vision statement. He discussed the EE Outcomes course that KEEC staff took through Cornell University.
 - a) Motion to approve vision statement: \Rightarrow At 1:29 PM, M. Norton moved to approve the vision statement. K. Reagor seconded. L. Brewer said that the statement as written would work for the Energy and Environment Cabinet, but our vision statement should include mention of educating the public. M. Norton revised the motion to approve a vision statement saying "To ensure a sustainable and economically healthy environment for all Kentuckians through environmental education." All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed. W. Bullock will add the vision to the "About Us" page of the KEEC website.
2. Information: EE Outcomes
 - a) W. Bullock presented a summary of research on how to achieve environmental outcomes. He noted the importance of promoting nature connectedness for early elementary and younger children, and promoting collective action for upper elementary and older children and adults.
3. Update: 2020 Master Plan and Survey
 - a) B. Bennett noted that no valid proposals were received to facilitate the master plan meetings. M. Norton requested the written records from the master plan meetings. B. Bennett reviewed the proposed agenda of meetings. B. Hardin suggested that the Council participate in the process at the July Meeting to give the Council experience with the process and to guide the master plan writing up front.
4. Action: Upcoming Council Meetings
 - a) B. Bennett suggested holding the Council retreat and writing retreat Sept. 12-13 at General Butler State Resort Park. K. Reagor asked if this is the writing process to finalize the master plan. B. Hardin noted that, if more than 3 council members participate in the writing retreat, it will need to be organized as a public meeting of the council. That means that both the council retreat and writing retreat will be open meetings. K. Reagor asked about the location, but could not think of a more central location.
 - b) Motion to hold council retreat with master plan writing retreat Sept. 12-13 at General Butler or other suitable location: \Rightarrow At 2:15 PM, L. Brewer moved to approve holding the council retreat with the master plan writing retreat Sept. 12-13 at General Butler or other suitable location. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed. K. Reagor asked if the July meeting would be in the 300 Building. W. Bullock said it would as long as we are still located in the meeting. B. Hardin asked that sufficient time be set aside at the July meeting to do the master plan meeting process.
5. KUPPEE Update
 - a) B. Bennett announced that the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education is considering changing its name and purpose, with less of an emphasis on having a center and more of an emphasis on having a coalition of campus partnerships that would be responsible for environmental education on their campus (a Student Life & Sustainability Coordinator along with a biology professor, for example, so it wouldn't be a single person). The name under consideration is KUPPEE (Kentucky College and University Partnership for Environmental Education). K. Reagor asked if that meets the language of KEEC's founding statute. B. Hardin said that regional universities will ignore unfunded

mandates unless there are teeth to the statute. K. Reagor said that makes sense to her, but that this does not meet with the original idea that there would be established centers and funding to go along with it. M. Norton noted that the purpose is to have a more robust presence on university campuses, and if we can get to that without violating the law, then we should do it. K. Reagor said that if the networking is more effective without the concept of “centers” as we have known them, then she is comfortable pursuing it to see if it will be fruitful.

6. KAAEE Update

- a) A. Hoffman discussed the upcoming North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Conference scheduled to be held in Lexington in October 2019. Jim Embry is co-chair of the conference with A. Hoffman. The Conference itself is October 16-19. W. Bullock will coordinate volunteers. KAAEE will not host a state conference and the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance will not host a regional conference, so there will be local events. The Kentucky annual meeting will probably be on Saturday night, potentially at McConnell Springs, for meeting and awards. KEEC will award certificates to Master Environmental Educators. B. Bennett suggested KEEC sponsoring the Kentucky-focused event. A. Hoffman said that sponsor benefits include: ticket to sponsor dinner, tickets to President’s reception, 1/4 page ad in program, recognition on websites and annual report, one year organizational membership with KAAEE. M. Norton asked if the conference focuses on local environmental issues. A. Hoffman said that is done through field trips. B. Bennett said some of the sessions will deal with this as well. A. Hoffman noted that Kentucky has one of the strongest fields of EE in the nation, and there is a lot to be proud of and showcase.

7. KY NEED Update

- a) B. Hardin noted that we have been lax in asking for updates from KY NEED project in the past, but they are a key partner of KEEC. K. Reagor said that she is currently the lone staff person, but she is waiting on 2 or 3 grants. They had 20 submit projects and 13 attend the awards luncheon. Lloyd Memorial won the national award, but she does not believe anyone will attend the national awards ceremony in DC. She has a full load of 24 teachers on the energy tour, which will be in central KY. They will visit CAER, then the Kentucky Core Library (now called the Earth Analysis and Research Library), then Schneider Electric facility, then Big Ass Solutions R&D Center, then Ohio Falls for hydro, then Mill Creek (LG&E’s largest facility that has implemented the most measures for implementing the new air quality standards) then Fort Knox, which is fully sustainable if the grid goes down, then Community College in Danville for web resources and trends, then EW Brown power plant which has hydro, coal, solar, and natural gas. Teachers get great career ideas for new careers, and they hear from employers what they are looking for in future employees, which is very often soft skills like conversation rather than content.

8. Update: Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education

- a) B. Bennet said that KEEC will try to expand participants because we don’t have to worry about quorum. The next meeting is in June.

D. Budget

1. Update: Education and Workforce Development Cabinet budget and legislative meeting

- a) B. Bennett reported that KEEC staff were called to meet with the new Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Budget Director Jake Fouts and Cabinet Deputy

Secretary Mike Nemes about the KEEC budget and legislative meetings. Overall it was a very positive meeting, and Dept. Sec. Nemes was impressed with the PEEC course, and the KGHS program after he attended the Summit. He felt that the agency does a lot with little money. He and Budget Director Fouts asked a lot of questions about where the agency money comes from. B. Bennett feels like he would be supportive of the agency in any budgetary discussions. Dept. Sec. Nemes has agreed to hand out certificates at the PEEC graduation, and he said that we need to communicate more about our work. B. Hardin said that staff should ask Dept. Sec. Nemes about council appointments.

2. Action: Quarterly budget report

- a) W. Bullock projected Environmental Education Leadership Corps spending through the end of the grant period, and though KEEC won't spend all of the federal funds due to bringing members on board late and dropped members, we will not have to cover any shortfall with agency funds. B. Hardin asked if we could provide value in science education. B. Bennett noted that the KDE science specialist remains.
- b) Motion to approve quarterly budget report: \Rightarrow K. Reagor moved to approve the quarterly budget report. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.

E. Support – Public and Private

1. Update: Environmental Education Leadership Corps grant

- a) B. Bennett noted that KEEC has submitted a grant continuation proposal for \$273,890 in federal funds. The proposal would increase the number of Member Service Years (MSYs) from 16 to 18.03, which is broken down into 16 1700-hour members, 3 900-hour members, and 2 450-hour members. K. Reagor asked if the worker's comp rate was right since it is low, and A. Hoffman explained that she had to get a new provider, but found a good rate.

2. Update: EPA grant

- a) B. Bennett said that no action has been taken on the EPA grant since the last meeting

3. Update: New grants

- a) B. Bennett noted that he applied for, but did not receive, grants relating to pollinator education and AmeriCorps VISTA.

F. Communication and Marketing

1. Update: Re-branding

- a) Council Members reviewed several draft agency logos. L. Brewer said that the logo is too related to agriculture, but she liked the colors. K. Reagor said that the green is harsh and she doesn't understand the perfectly round dots. B. Hardin said that the font should be good because it will be used in materials. Members liked the formatting with the smaller "ee". They wanted to keep the yellow/orange/green (lighter shade) template. Suggestions: something with the state of Kentucky in it, a healthy environment, well-being, and/or silhouette of Kentucky with diverse characteristics. B. Hardin suggested looking over the master plan or surfing the web for environmental logos and sending suggestions. W. Bullock will send an email reminder for the feedback with a week due date.

2. Update: Communication and Marketing update

- a) B. Bennett noted that he will have the intern program manager put word out about the internship opportunity with KEEC. B. Hardin asked for the notice to be sent to her to send out within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

G. Environmental Education

1. Update: Environmental Education Leadership Corps
 - a) A. Mike discussed an infographic presenting statistics on the first year of the program. She also discussed an article in the Winchester Sun profiling Erin Sliney, the Environmental Education Leadership Corps member serving at Legacy Grove Park.
2. Update: Professional Environmental Educator Certification
 - a) W. Bullock announced that the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course graduation would be held May 31 at the State Capitol. Council Members and State Commissioners are invited.
3. Update: Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools
 - a) W. Bullock discussed the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools and KY NEED Youth Summit and Awards luncheon, which was held on April 25.
4. Update: Pre-K Environmental Education Conference
 - a) Redwood Cooperative School has sent out a save the date notification for its Early Learners Conference, which will be held August 8-9. KEEC will sponsor scholarships for attendees.

H. Added items

1. Children's Environmental Health Summit
 - a) B. Bennett noted that the Children's Environmental Health Summit, which he is helping to coordinate, is looking for sponsorships. It is a Kentucky event. B. Bennett said that it is a different audience for us. K. Reagor asked how much the sponsorships would cost. B. Bennett noted that the organizers have not yet determined this. The conference will be held in Somerset in September. B. Hardin said that the Council can discuss sponsorships in July with more specifics.
 - b) Council Members reviewed and edited the condolence letter for Iris Brown. L. Brewer suggested presenting the commendation in person. A. Hoffman offered the Kentucky event on Saturday night at the NAAEE conference. B. Hardin suggested naming an award or program after Horace Brown. Council Members will continue to think of this and mail the letter and resolution. B. Hardin will sign and send the letter.

Motion to Adjourn: ➡ At 4:00 PM, L. Brewer moved to adjourn. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.